

to what is known as "means test." Public authority is guilty of great injustice if it gives public money to persons who have not earned it from the authority, and who are not "destitute and without the counsel of friends." The public authority is, therefore, under a serious obligation to investigate all claims for free assistance or services, and in such investigation it must include help received from charitable neighbours by way of alms.

COMMUNIST DOCTRINE.

The communist ideology, of course, denies all this doctrine, because it denies the right of private property. It looks upon all property as rightfully belonging to the public authority, and not to the individual owner, and hence the public authority can give its "own" to whoever it pleases. This is the origin of the belief that people should have all kinds of "free services." It is not long ago since we heard the claim made that the land of this country belonged to the nation, and not to the farmer who owned it. This is unadulterated communist doctrine. If the people could be gradually brought to a frame of mind where this idea was accepted in which the citizen was arbitrarily entitled to State help and services, irrespective of his private means, we would be in the position in which we had implicitly accepted the communist doctrine of public ownership of all property and the denial of the rights of private property. The Communist idea would have won under the plea of "social justice." This method of attack is in operation daily in Ireland all around us. We should be careful of the "altruists" who dispose of other people's property through the machinery of State social services.

The following is an instance where an important speaker told the people that money taken from the rate and taxpayers and given to persons who did not earn it was identical with the giving of it to persons who earned it under terms of a contract. The exact words are as follows: "The Public Assistance authority has obligations—statutory obligations—to the poor for reasonable maintenance of the poor in their respective areas, and it is time that the poor and those people who speak for the poor realised that they have a statutory right, and that there is no stigma attached to the money that is raised by rates, no more than there is to the money raised by taxation. I have yet to meet a public official who felt there was any stigma connected with the salary that he was paid by the rates. He is on the rates, the same as anybody else, with a right to his salary, and there is no stigma attached to it."

THE FIELD OF HEALTH SERVICES.

Another fertile field for this propaganda to-day is the field of health services. Here we are told that everybody is entitled to free services at the expense of the taxpayer, no matter how rich the patient may be, and that persons who cannot afford to pay for treatment should not accept treatment as a charity. In other words, we can take our neighbour's property as a right, and deny that the neighbour is charitable, when we decide that we need it; we object to anyone else deciding this in our objec-

tion, but with six teams in the county now playing it will be much more interesting and the standard of play should be higher.

AN APPRECIATION

THE LATE DANIEL O'BRIEN, BALLYMAC

There has passed from our midst a man who had established himself as the people's poet over a wide area in South Limerick (writes our Kilmallock correspondent). Mr. O'Brien had the gift of turning any incident which he thought worth while into rhyme. He composed many songs about his native place and his people, and always when he sang at local concerts he evoked peals of laughter from an audience who knew him so well. Yet in none of his compositions was there an offensive line or a word that would give the slightest hurt to the most sensitive person. He was a great admirer of the "Bard of Thomond" and like him, he regarded the gift of poetry not as given by education but as God given. He believed with Michael Hogan, "Bard of Thomond":—

"I am a bard to none but God above,
Who gave me the gift of song
From His Angel Choir and
taught me to love
The right and to hate the
wrong.
I sing no tinselled autocrat's
praise,
I crouch no servile knee;
Nor birth nor blood but the
true and good
And the loving themes are for
me."

DEATH OF MR. J. HOGAN, BALLYVACOGUE

The death took place at the Co. Hospital, Croom, on Friday night, 13th inst., of Mr. James Hogan, Ballyvacogue, Askeaton. A farmer and cattle-dealer, the late Mr. Hogan was a popular figure throughout West Limerick. The remains were conveyed to Cappagh Parish Church on Saturday evening, and the funeral took place to the family burial ground at Nanteenan on Sunday afternoon. The cortege was large and representative on both occasions.

Very Rev. Father Boyce, P.P., Cappagh, officiated, assisted by Very Rev. T. Canon Wall, P.P., Croom; Rev. Fr. Kirby, C.C., Croom; Rev. Fr. Rea, C.C., Askeaton, and Rev. P. Noonan, C.S.Sp., Cashel.

The chief mourners were:—Michael, Patrick and Daniel Hogan (brothers); Mrs. Madigan (sister); Mrs. M. Hogan (sister-in-law); Misses Kathleen, Eileen, Mary and Margaret Hogan, and Misses Eileen Mary, Kathleen, Bridget, and Anne Madigan (nieces), and Messrs. John, Daniel and Denis Madigan (nephews).

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